IN THE CLAIMS:

7.   (Amended) A design support method, comprising:

managing a design file formed of a series of work procedure data, which is

identified by ID and consists of at least one work procedure data portion, and figure

element data to be formed on the basis of each work procedure data portion;

recording a work procedure data portion, which corresponds to figure element

data to be referenced, as specific information linked with a standard design file by ID for

identifying the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard design

file to figure element data contained in another design file is determined;

retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion within another design to

file with ID, which is recorded in the specific information, used as a key in order to

retrieve each corresponding work procedure data portion when reference in the

standard design file is executed; and

comparing a work procedure data portion of specific information or figure

element data which contents of another design file when a corresponding work

procedure data portion is not retrieved by the retrieval and retrieving a corresponding

work procedure data portion on the basis of the compared result.

8.   (Amended) A recording medium storing a design support program and

being computer-readable comprising:

a module for managing a design file formed of a series of work procedure data, which is identified by ID and consists of at least one work procedure data portion, and figure element data to be formed on the basis of each work procedure data portion;

a module for recording a work procedure data portion, which corresponds to figure element data to be referenced, as specific information linked with a standard design file by ID for identifying the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard design file to figure element data contained in another design file is determined;

a first retrieval module for retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion within another design file with ID, which is recorded in the specific information used, as a key in order to retrieve the each corresponding work procedure data portion when reference in the standard design file is executed; and

a second retrieval module for comparing a work procedure data portion of specific information or figure element data with contents of another design file when a corresponding work procedure data portion is not retrieved by the first retrieval module and retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion on the basis of the compared result.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment corrects minor informalities in the as-filed specification and in claims 7 and 8.